

IN THE CLAIMS:

1. (canceled).

2. (previously presented) A bush cutting machine comprising:

an operation rod;

a cutter blade mounted to the front end of the operation rod for undergoing rotation;

a prime mover mounted to the rear end of the operation rod for rotationally driving the cutter blade;

a throttle lever pivotally mounted with respect to the operation rod for controlling an opening degree of a throttle valve of the prime mover to adjust a rotational speed of the cutter blade;

a brake unit for stopping rotation of the cutter blade; and

a link mechanism disposed in close proximity to the prime mover and actuated by operation of the throttle lever to adjust the degree of opening of the throttle valve of the prime mover and to release the brake unit from a braking condition.

3. (previously presented) A bush cutting machine according to claim 2; further comprising a cover for covering the brake unit; and wherein the link mechanism is mounted to the cover.

4. (previously presented) A bush cutting machine according to claim 3; wherein the link mechanism has a delay mechanism actuated by operation of the throttle lever such that the throttle valve opens with a time delay upon release of the brake unit from the braking condition.

5. - 6. (canceled).

7. (previously presented) A bush cutting machine comprising:

an operation rod;

a cutter blade mounted to the front end of the operation rod for undergoing rotation;

a prime mover mounted to the rear end of the operation rod for rotationally driving the cutter blade;

a throttle lever pivotally mounted with respect to the operation rod for controlling an opening degree of a throttle valve of the prime mover to adjust a rotational speed of the cutter blade;

a brake unit for stopping rotation of the cutter blade;

a link mechanism actuated by operation of the throttle lever to adjust the degree of opening of the throttle valve of the prime mover and to release the brake unit from a braking condition; and

a single piece of throttle cable extending between the throttle lever and the brake unit;

wherein the link mechanism is disposed midway of the single piece of throttle cable so that the control of the opening degree of the throttle valve and the release of the brake unit from the braking condition are achieved by manipulation of the single piece of throttle cable.

8. (previously presented) A bush cutting machine according to claim 7; wherein the link mechanism serves as a delay mechanism actuated by operation of the throttle lever such that the throttle valve opens with a time delay upon release of the brake unit from the braking condition.

9. (previously presented) A bush cutting machine according to claim 2; further comprising a main wire having a first end connected to the throttle lever and a second end, a throttle wire having a first end connected to the throttle valve of the prime mover and a second end, and a brake wire having a first end connected to the brake unit and a second end; and wherein the link mechanism has a generally U-shaped relay member having a first lug portion connected to the second end of the main wire and a second lug portion connected to the second end of the throttle wire and the second end of the brake wire, the first and second lug portions forming

opposite and confronting leg portions of the U-shaped relay member.

10. (previously presented) A bush cutting machine according to claim 9; wherein the relay member undergoes linear reciprocating movement in accordance with movement of the main wire, the throttle wire, and the brake wire.

11. (previously presented) A bush cutting machine according to claim 2; further comprising a main wire having a first end connected to the throttle lever and a second end, a throttle wire having a first end connected to the throttle valve of the prime mover and a second end, and a brake wire having a first end connected to the brake unit and a second end.

12. (currently amended) A bush cutting machine according to ~~claim 11; wherein~~ claim 9; wherein the link mechanism has a delay mechanism actuated by operation of the throttle lever such that the throttle valve opens with a time delay upon release of the brake unit from the braking condition; and wherein the delay mechanism comprises the second ends of the throttle and brake wires connected to the second lug portion of the relay member so that when the throttle lever is not operated, the second end of the throttle wire is spaced from the second lug portion at distance greater

than a space between the second end of the brake wire and the second lug portion.

13. (previously presented) A bush cutting machine according to claim 7; wherein the link mechanism has a generally U-shaped relay member having a first lug portion and a second lug portion, the first and second lug portions forming opposite and confronting leg portions of the U-shaped relay member.

14. (previously presented) A bush cutting machine according to claim 7; wherein the link mechanism has a delay mechanism actuated by operation of the throttle lever such that the throttle valve opens with a time delay upon release of the brake unit from the braking condition.

15. (currently amended) A bush cutting machine comprising:

an operation rod having a front end and a rear end;

a cutter blade mounted to the front end of the operation rod for undergoing rotation;

a prime mover mounted to the rear end of the operation rod for rotationally driving the cutter blade;

a throttle lever pivotally mounted with respect to the operation rod for controlling an opening degree of a throttle valve of the prime mover to adjust a rotational speed of the cutter blade;

a main wire having a first end connected to the throttle lever so that pivotal movement of the throttle lever pulls the main wire in a pulling direction from a standby condition to an operative condition;

a throttle wire having a first end connected to the throttle valve of the prime mover so that when the main wire is pulled in the pulling direction the throttle wire undergoes movement in the pulling direction from a standby condition to an operative condition to control the opening degree of the throttle valve;

a brake unit for stopping rotation of the cutter blade in a braking condition of the brake unit;

a brake wire having a first end connected to the brake unit so that when the main wire is pulled in the pulling direction the brake wire undergoes movement in the pulling direction from a standby condition in which the brake unit is in the braking condition to an operative condition in which the brake unit is released from the braking condition to allow rotation of the cutter blade; and

a link mechanism disposed in close proximity to the prime mover and actuated by operation of the throttle lever to adjust the degree of opening of the throttle valve of the prime mover and to release the brake unit from the braking condition when each of the main wire, the throttle wire and

the brake wire is in the operative condition, the link mechanism having a generally U-shaped relay member having a first lug portion connected to a second end of the main wire and a second lug portion connected to a second end of the throttle wire and a second end of the brake wire, the first and second lug portions forming opposite and confronting leg portions of the U-shaped relay member.

16. (previously presented) A bush cutting machine according to claim 15; wherein the link mechanism has a delay mechanism actuated by operation of the throttle lever such that the throttle valve opens with a time delay upon release of the brake unit from the braking condition.

17. (previously presented) A bush cutting machine according to claim 16; wherein the delay mechanism comprises the second ends of the throttle and brake wires connected to the second lug portion of the relay member so that when the throttle lever is not operated, the second end of the throttle wire is spaced from the second lug portion at distance greater than a space between the second end of the brake wire and the second lug portion.

18. (previously presented) A bush cutting machine according to claim 15; further comprising a handle mounted on the operation rod, and an operating lever unit mounted on the

handle and serving as a grip of the handle; wherein the link mechanism is disposed in the operating lever unit.

19. (previously presented) A bush cutting machine according to claim 18; wherein the link mechanism has a delay mechanism actuated by operation of the throttle lever such that the throttle valve opens with a time delay upon release of the brake unit from the braking condition.

20. (previously presented) A bush cutting machine according to claim 15; wherein the relay member undergoes linear reciprocating movement in accordance with movement of the main wire, the throttle wire, and the brake wire.